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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 708  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Tennessee affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and Union Planters Bank, N.A., for their special initiative to build a "House the General Assembly Built" for each of Tennessee's legislative districts over the next three years; to express support of the Tennessee General Assembly for this initiative; and to encourage Members of the General Assembly to participate in these activities with local Habitat affiliates and their partners.

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity International was founded 24 years ago and has developed into an extraordinary force to help provide affordable housing in 65 countries of the world through nearly 1,900 local affiliates, with over 1,500 of these affiliates in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Habitat dedicated its 80,000th house during 1999 and will dedicate its 100,000th house during 2000; and

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WHEREAS, the 49 Habitat affiliates in Tennessee built 205 houses during 1999, and three of the largest 40 Habitat affiliates are in Tennessee (Knoxville HFH, Memphis HFH, and Appalachia HFH, serving Scott and Morgan Counties); and

WHEREAS, the majority of Habitat affiliates operate entirely with volunteer staff, rely heavily on volunteer labor and community support, and require homebuyers to invest their own energies and funds in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee local affiliates of Habitat for Humanity wish to continue their legacy of providing affordable housing by joining with the Tennessee General Assembly, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and Union Planters Bank, to build Habitat houses in every area of the state to be identified as "Houses the General Assembly Built"; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati is a \$46 billion federally-chartered wholesale bank providing funds for housing, finance and community development, serving Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati is wholly owned by its stockholders and does not use taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati annually sets aside ten percent of its earnings to provide funds through its Affordable Housing Program to support the development and preservation of affordable housing throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati provided \$19.6 million in Affordable Housing Program funds to help members finance more than 2,400 units of housing, and during 2000, expects to offer similar funding; and

WHEREAS, local affiliates of Habitat, through Union Planters Bank, are anticipating \$330,000 from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati to help construct 33 Habitat houses during 2000, with a like amount to be requested for each of the next two years; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administered a grant program (HOUSE), funded by state tax revenues, which from 1989 through 1999 provided over \$93 million in grants to cities, counties, and non-profit organizations throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, THDA has provided over \$16 million in HOUSE funds to 46 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International in Tennessee to produce over 900 homes; and

WHEREAS, THDA has committed to provide \$660,000 from its own resources to help construct 33 Habitat homes during 2000 and intends to provide similar funding for each of the next two years, in amount sufficient to construct one Habitat house for each of Tennessee's 99 House legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, Union Planters is the largest bank holding company headquartered in Tennessee, with assets of over \$33 billion; and its largest subsidiary, Union Planters Bank, N.A., located in Memphis, serves banking needs in 12 states through nearly 900 banking offices; and

WHEREAS, Union Planters Bank, through its Community Lending Program, has developed products to help make home ownership a reality; through its signature Affordable Housing Program, Union Planters Bank has helped over 2,400 families become homeowners (representing approximately \$130 million in loans); and

WHEREAS, Union Planters Bank, through the Affordable Housing Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, has worked with 28 non-profit agencies in Tennessee and Mississippi to produce some 500 units of affordable owner-occupied and rental housing; and

WHEREAS, Union Planters Bank was awarded the 1999 President's Award from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, such award, recognizing in part, its work with Habitat for Humanity in Robbins, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Union Planters Bank has agreed to be the applicant to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati for funds to help construct 33 Habitat houses during 2000, as the

beginning of a three-year program to build a Habitat house for each of Tennessee's legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, building these Habitat "Houses the General Assembly Built" will require no federal, state, or local tax revenues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Tennessee General Assembly expresses its commendation and support for local affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tennessee General Assembly encourages its members to participate with local affiliates of Habitat and their partners in the events and activities for each "House the General Assembly Built".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tennessee General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and Union Planters Bank, for providing funding for this worthy initiative; for encouraging local support; and for managing the activities which will help provide this Habitat housing and improve the quality of life in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final resolving clause omitted from such copies.